

# 2022 ECONOMIC REPORT NORTHWEST REGION



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Northwest Region is comprised of 18 counties in the northwest corner of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including St. Joseph, Chillicothe, Trenton, and Maryville.

The Northwest Region workforce has almost 119,000 employees, making up 4.1 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2021, 48.4 percent of the workforce was female and 51.6 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2021 was 3.8 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Northwest Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2021, 24 percent of the workforce in the region was age 55 or older, up from 21 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 9.2 percent of the workforce was non-white and 5.3 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 17.6 percent non-white and 4.5 percent Hispanic or Latino.

For the Northwest Region, 5.3 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 6.9 percent and the U.S. population at 23.1 percent.

The Northwest Region has a similar percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and a higher percentage than the nation. For the region, 12.2 percent of the population has a disability similar to 12.2 percent in Missouri, and higher than the U.S. average of 10.3 percent.

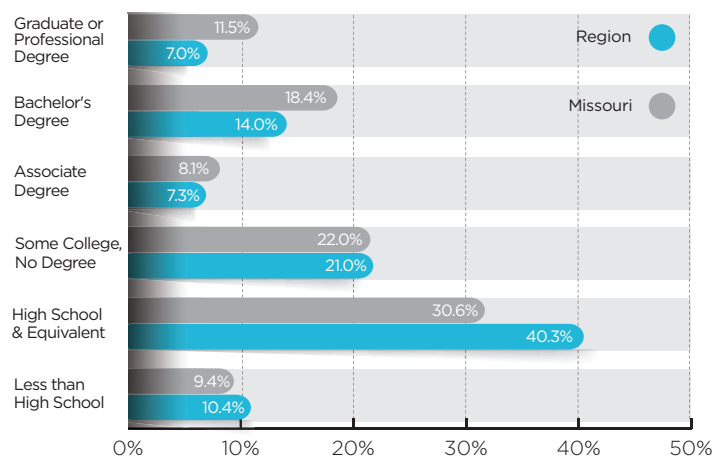
## Workforce Demographics

	NW Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2021	118,960	2,928,368	152,580,667
Average Unemployment Rate in 2021	3.8%	4.4%	5.3%
Male	51.6%	51.0%	50.3%
Female	48.4%	49.0%	49.7%
Non-White	9.2%	17.6%	23.7%
Hispanic or Latino	5.3%	4.5%	16.7%
Ages 55 or Older	24.0%	23.0%	23.0%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	12.2%	12.2%	10.3%
Below Poverty Level (Ages 18-64)	13.1%	12.6%	12.1%
Language other than English	5.3%	6.9%	23.1%
Education Associate Degree or Higher	28.3%	38.0%	41.6%

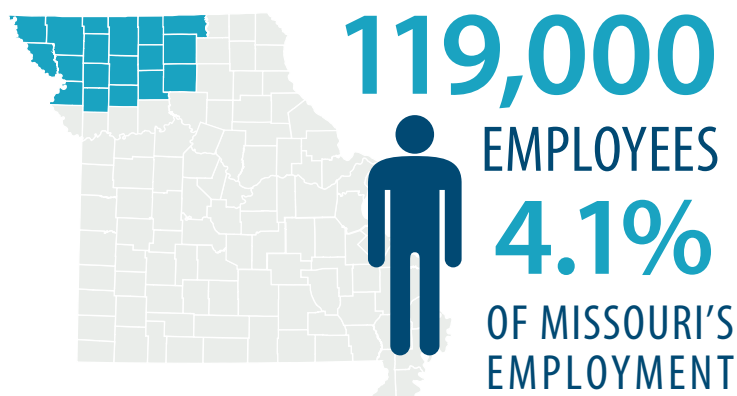
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2020-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2021

Educational attainment rates for the Northwest Region are lower than those of the state for those with bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-eight percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 38 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2020 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

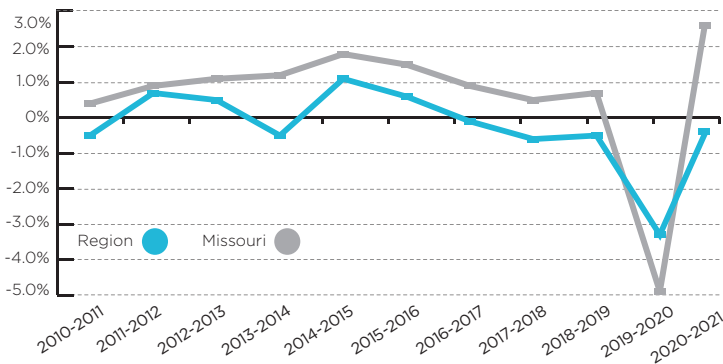


# NORTHWEST REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Northwest Region averaged over 90,800 jobs in 2021. The region lost only 23 jobs from 2020 to 2021 at a rate of -0.03 percent, whereas the region had lost 3,065 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a -3.3 percent growth rate due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent, however Missouri employment increased by 2.5 percent in 2021, showing recovery from the pandemic impacts. From 2017 to 2021, the Northwest Region averaged -1.1 percent compound annual loss for an overall decrease of 4.3 percent. During that same period Missouri's employment declined by 1.4 percent.

Northwest Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Retail Trade are the largest industry sectors in the region, with an employment of 16,309, 14,859, and 10,709, respectively, in 2021.

Only Construction; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; and Transportation and Warehousing had positive growth from 2017 to 2021 in the region.

Northwest Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2017	Employment 2021	Net Change	2017-2021 Empl. CAGR	2020 Annual Wages
Manufacturing	16,890	16,309	-581	-0.9%	\$56,544
Health Care & Social Assistance	15,783	14,859	-924	-1.5%	\$44,616
Retail Trade	10,801	10,709	-92	-0.2%	\$32,112
Educational Services	8,146	7,142	-1,004	-3.2%	\$36,564
Accommodation & Food Services	6,933	6,214	-719	-2.7%	\$16,848
Public Administration	5,952	4,759	-1,193	-5.4%	\$36,888
Construction	4,509	4,752	243	1.3%	\$62,640
Administrative Support & Waste	7,180	3,663	-3,517	-15.5%	\$32,304
Wholesale Trade	3,674	3,556	-118	-0.8%	\$55,020
Finance & Insurance	3,339	2,862	-477	-3.8%	\$59,052
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	2,490	2,783	293	2.8%	\$65,892
Transportation & Warehousing	2,618	2,683	65	0.6%	\$44,664

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2017-2021 ANNUAL AVERAGES

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The Northwest Region has higher concentrations in several industry sectors, including *Food Manufacturing*; *Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing*; and *Gasoline Stations*.



2021 Northwest Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Food Manufacturing	4,594	4.7
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2,969	3.6
Gasoline Stations	1,775	3.2
Chemical Manufacturing	1,476	2.8
Building Material & Garden Equip. & Supplies	1,299	1.5
General Merchandise Stores	2,797	1.5
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	1,775	1.4
Transit & Ground Passenger Transportation	292	1.3
Animal Production & Aquaculture	186	1.2
Utilities	383	1.2
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1,347	1.2
Crop Production	369	1.1
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	2,006	1.1
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	634	1.0
Social Assistance	2,415	1.0

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

# NORTHWEST REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Northwest Region between 2020-2030 will be in the *Food Manufacturing; Social Assistance; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Food Services and Drinking Places; and Machinery Manufacturing* industries.

## Northwest Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Food Manufacturing	6,380	6,929	549	8.6%
Social Assistance	3,094	3,500	406	13.1%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	2,308	2,644	336	14.6%
Food Services & Drinking Places	6,087	6,387	300	4.9%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,639	1,874	235	14.3%
Hospitals	4,764	4,955	191	4.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	3,246	3,375	129	4.0%
Specialty Trade Contractors	2,011	2,139	128	6.4%
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	3,132	3,254	122	3.9%
Couriers & Messengers	366	482	116	31.7%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

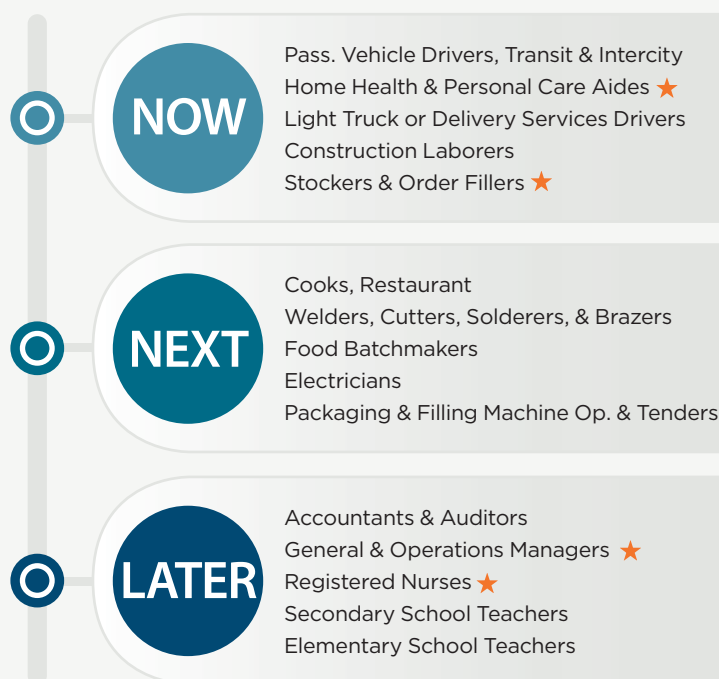
MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term, on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations with the most projected openings are *Retail Salespersons; Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Cashiers. Passenger Vehicle Drivers; Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate to long-term training. *Cooks; Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers; and Nursing Assistants* are projected to have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Cooks; Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers; and Food Batchmakers* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Secondary School Teachers* are projected to have the most openings. *Accountants and Auditors; General and Operations Managers; and Registered Nurses* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

## Northwest Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2021-2022 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

# NORTHWEST REGION

## Northwest Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
<b>NOW</b>							
Retail Salespersons	3,722	3,638	-8	206	304	502	\$24,397 ★
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	2,732	3,120	39	187	166	392	\$24,008 ★
Cashiers	2,276	2,099	-18	186	209	377	\$22,767
Fast Food & Counter Workers	1,611	1,603	-1	156	170	325	\$20,328 ★
Office Clerks, General	2,340	2,166	-17	123	134	240	\$30,940
<b>NEXT</b>							
Cooks, Restaurant	852	1,102	25	58	84	167	\$23,639
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,507	1,513	1	62	102	165	\$43,252 ★
Nursing Assistants	1,458	1,376	-8	91	80	163	\$26,265 ★
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1,462	1,454	-1	51	85	135	\$38,756 ★
Miscellaneous Assemblers & Fabricators	1,219	1,114	-10	44	83	117	\$46,550
<b>LATER</b>							
General & Operations Managers	1,679	1,754	8	34	106	148	\$62,773 ★
Registered Nurses	1,961	2,005	4	53	50	107	\$63,364 ★
Secondary School Teachers	1,603	1,604	0	42	65	107	\$44,407
Elementary School Teachers	929	925	0	28	37	65	\$40,513
Accountants & Auditors	617	646	3	18	37	58	\$57,648

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2021-2022 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the Northwest Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### Northwest Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
<b>NOW</b>	
Retail Salespersons	438
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	342
Fast Food & Counter Workers	293
Customer Service Representatives	275
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	194
<b>NEXT</b>	
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	511
Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers	359
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	324
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	240
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	233
<b>LATER</b>	
Registered Nurses	549
Medical & Health Services Managers	209
Software Developers & Software Quality Assurance Analysts & Testers	195
Personal Service Managers, All Other; Entertainment & Recreation Managers, Except Gambling; & Managers, All Other	190
General & Operations Managers	141

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™ (FORMERLY EMSI BURNING GLASS TECHNOLOGIES), ONLINE JOB ADS FROM JUNE 1, 2021 TO MAY 31, 2022

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.